

“CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY”
NEWS RELEASE

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LINCOLN FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SOUND THE ALARM
ON SMOKE DETECTOR NEGLECT

Lincoln, October 28th, 2000 — One day before the fall time change, the Lincoln Fire Department will sound the alarm — literally — on smoke detector neglect as part of this year’s “Change your clock, change your battery” campaign.

“Change your clock, change your battery” is a national home fire safety campaign sponsored by the Lincoln Fire Department, the International Association of Fire Chief’s (IAFC) and Energizer batteries. “Change” urges all Americans to adopt a lifesaving habit: changing smoke detector batteries when they change clocks back from daylight - saving time each fall.

Working smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a home fire by nearly half by providing an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape. Although smoke detectors are in 92 percent of American homes, nearly one third don’t work because of worn or missing batteries.

This year will be joining thousands of other fire departments nationwide that are participating in the county’s 13th annual fire safety drill, “Operation Check and Change”.

“This year, we’re hoping to communicate the “Change” smoke detector maintenance message more dramatically than ever before,” says Chief Mike Spadt. “Many people are familiar with the sound a smoke detector makes when the batteries are low, and through “Operation Check and Change,” we will create the sense that Lincoln’s smoke detector is signaling the need for community maintenance”.

In addition to changing smoke detector batteries, Chief Spadt recommends that residents take a few fire safety measures including, checking the smoke detector itself by pushing the test button, changing flashlights batteries, planning “two ways out” and practicing those escape routes with the entire family.

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